IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly add and rewrite the following paragraphs of the Specification, as follows:

Paragraph [0034]:

FIG. 3 is a cross section of one strut of the stent 10 and blood vessel 100 illustrating one example of an opening 14 arranged adjacent the vessel wall with a mural surface 26 abutting the vessel wall and a luminal surface 24 opposite the mural surface. The opening 14 of FIG. 3 contains a matrix 40 with a therapeutic agent illustrated by Os in the matrix. The luminal side 24 of the stent opening 14 is provided with a barrier layer 30. The barrier layer 30 erodes more slowly than the matrix 40 containing the therapeutic agent and thus, causes the therapeutic agent to be delivered primarily to the mural side 26 of the stent. The matrix 40 and therapeutic agent are arranged in a programmable manner to achieve a desire release rate and administration period which will be described in further detail below. As can be seen in the example of FIG. 3, the concentration of the therapeutic agent (Os) is highest at the luminal side 24 of the stent 10 and lowest at the mural side 26 of the stent. This configuration in which the drug can be precisely arranged within the matrix allows the release rate and administration period to be selected and programmed to a particular application. The methods by which the drug can be precisely arranged within the matrix in the openings is a stepwise deposition process is further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/777,283 ~~(Attorney Docket No. 032304-108)~~ filed on even date herewith, and is incorporated herein by reference.